

ON THE PLACEMENT OF THE NAMES CADUCA AND  
RETIS (LEPID., PHALAENIDAE).

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*caduca* Grt.

- 1876, Grote, Can. Ent. VIII, 207, *Eustrotia*.  
1893, Smith, Bull. U. S. N. M., XLIV, 311, *Erastria*.  
1895, Grote, Abh. Nat. Ver. Bremen, XIV, 118, *Eustrotia*.  
1903, Dyar, List, 209, No. 2608, *Eustrotia*.  
1910, Smith, Ins. N. J. (1909), 472, *Erastria*.  
1910, Hampson, Cat. Lep. Phal. B. M., IX, 22, text f. 4, *Gortyna*.  
1913, Forbes, Jour. N. Y. Ent. Soc., XXI, 182, *Helotropha*.  
1917, Barnes & McDunnough, Check List, 69, No. 2634, *Helotropha*.

*form retis* Grt.

- 1879, Grote, Can. Ent., XI, 198, *Eustrotia*.  
1893, Smith, Bull. U. S. N. M., XLIV, 311, *Erastria*.  
1895, Grote, Abh. Nat. Ver. Bremen, XIV, 118, *Eustrotia*.  
1903, Dyar, List 209, No. 2608, *Eustrotia*.  
1910, Hampson, Cat. Lep. Phal. B. M., IX, 23, pl. CXXXVII, 18, *Gortyna*.  
1911, Forbes, Jour. N. Y. Ent. Soc., XXI, 182 (footnote), *Helotropha*.  
1917, Barnes & McDunnough, Check List, 69, No. 2635, *Helotropha*.

Both names have, heretofore, been retained as species. Our series, including fresh specimens received from Mr. C. Rummel, shows a single variable species. We base our determinations on specimens compared with the types of both names, in the British Museum, by Dr. J. McDunnough. The form *retis* was collected along with *caduca* at Green Village, N. J., by Mr. Rummel, and the name should be added to the New Jersey Faunal Lists. We have both from New York, and a single specimen of *caduca* from Illinois. The latter was described from Michigan; and *retis* from Pennsylvania. The species appears, therefore, rather generally distributed, but is not common in collections. Grote, 1876, gives the food plant as "Yellow Pond Lily (*Nuphar advena*)" and Smith, 1910, as "*Sagittaria*."

Hampson places the names in the genus he calls *Gortyna* in his subfamily "Acronyctinæ" recte *Apatelinæ*. *Gortyna* Ochs. has,

as type, *flavago* D. & S., designated by Curtis, 1829; *Ochria* Hbn. and *Xanthoecia* Hampson are synonyms with the same genotype. Probably the genus is strictly European as *buffaloensis* Grt., the sole species placed in "*Xanthoecia*," in North American lists, is presumably not strictly congeneric with *flavago*. *Helotropha* Led., type *Noctua fibrosa* Hbn., is available for *Gortyna* of Hampson as far as *reniformis* Grt. and its varieties are concerned.

But *caduca* and *retis* are not congeneric with *reniformis*. Vein 5 of the hind wing is strong enough to warrant placement in the subfamily Hampson calls "*Erastrinae*." Grote has, on several occasions, shown that Ochsheimer simply stole the name *Erastria* from the Huebner Tentamen, and that *Erastria* is a Geometrid genus. Also on plate CCIII of the Samml. exot. Schmett. Huebner figures "*Erastria immista Dissimularia*," a typical Geometrid, and this plate may well have been issued prior to *Erastria* Ochs. (1816); Huebner's prospectus of 1809 saying that 78 plates (not consecutive) had been issued, and his next prospectus (dated 1823) offering 371 plates. We make mention of this to give those who would reject the Tentamen a chance to carefully consider just what they would do with "*Erastria*." Personally we think the Tentamen names available, and consider *Erastria* Ochs. a homonym of *Erastria* Hbn. Tentamen. As for *Erastria* Ochs., we might also mention that no less than six different genotypes have been designated. The earliest fixation of a type appears to be 1826, Curtis, Brit. Ent., I, 140, *Phalaena uncana* L. This we accept as type of *Erastria* Ochs. nec Hbn., and place the name as a homonym under *Eustrotia* Hbn., type *Noctua unca* D. & S., designated by Grote, 1874, Bull. Buff. Soc. Nat. Sci., II, 37. Even were *Erastria* Ochs. available it could not be used for the European *trabealis*, etc., a use sponsored by Hampson and Warren because of their "first species" rule. These European species belong in *Erotyla* Hbn. (Tentamen), with synonymic genera *Emmelia* Hbn. and *Agrophila* Bdv.

This placement of *Erastria* Ochs. causes us to substitute the name *Acontinae* for Hampson's *Erastrinae*, a change we do not regret as it simply substantiates Grote's work. The type genus is *Acontia* Ochs. The first type designation we find for *Acontia* is in 1829. Duponchel designated *solaris* and Curtis designated *lucutiosa* in the same year. We cannot say which designation has priority, but tentatively consider the genotype as *solaris*. Hampson, 1918, Nov. Zool., XXV, 200, has already discarded his *Acon-*

tiinæ of the Cat. Lep. Phal. B. M. for "Vestermannianæ." He derives this from *Westermannia* Hbn. If this genus is to be used as type for the subfamily called Acontiinæ in the Catalogue, Article 4 of the International Zoological Code would seem to compel the name to be Westermanniinæ.

At any rate the name Acontiinæ seems available for "Erastrinæ" as employed by Hampson.

*Lithacodia* Hbn. [type *bellicula* Hbn., sole species of both the Zutrage (1816?) and the Verz. (1822)], appears to be the genus containing species congeneric with *caduca* and *retis*. The peculiar abdominal tuftings of *caduca*, and even the habitus of the species, is duplicated in *Lithacodia apicosa* Haw. Frons, legs, and venation also agree.

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**Remarks on *Megistias neamathla* Skinner & Williams.**—Lepidoptera-Rhopalocera.—The writer has made a series of genitalic mounts of this species and also of *Megistias fusca* Grote and Robinson, and all of the specimens of *neamathla*, from which the slides were made, have the subapical spots of the primaries, mentioned in the original description, whereas, none of the specimens of *fusca* show any trace of these spots, though some of them have two, ill-defined, discal spots; it would seem, therefore, that the presence of subapical spots would serve as a character to separate *neamathla* from *fusca*, at least in the majority of cases. *Neamathla* was described from specimens from Central Florida, and there are specimens in the collection of the writer from Tampa, Florida, and Mobile, Alabama, genitally determined.—E. L. BELL, Flushing, N. Y.

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**A New Locality for *Thanaos tristis* Boisduval.**—Lepidoptera-Rhopalocera.—Among a consignment of specimens of submarginal white spots on the under side of the secondaries *Hesperiiidae* received from Mr. E. J. Oslar, which were collected by him in the Casper Mountains, Wyoming, during July, 1925, is a single male specimen of this species, genitally determined, which is identical in superficial appearance with other specimens from California in the writer's collection. The absence of the submarginal white spots on the under side of the secondaries places the specimen with the typical form instead of with the form *tatius* Edwards, commonly taken in Arizona.—E. L. BELL, Flushing, N. Y.